

From the Mailbox

By Our Readers

Editor, Torrance Herald

Just prior to the recent Override Tax Election, I noticed every Torrance newspaper carried a letter of thanks from one official or another of the Torrance Board of Education, in their "Letters to the Editor" column.

As a taxpayer of this fair city, I should like to express my thanks, too. I want to thank those brave souls who finally got up enough courage to tell the School Board where to get off!

Dr. Hull was quoted as saying, "the vote result was indicative of the economic trend." Before the election, it was said the tax would only amount to 5c a day, which in itself is true, but when you take 5c for that and 2c for bread and another cent for milk, etc. and add them all up, we've had it. This is the same as saying a dress on sale for \$3.99 is a bargain compared to the regular price of \$4!

If Dr. Hull feels the economy is on the down trend, by what measure of the imagination does he justify the position of the School Board when they contend they must pay premium wages to get teachers? 4450 applications for teaching positions have been received by the Board of Education, not counting another fifteen hundred non-teaching applications.

1500 teacher applicants were interviewed and 283 new teachers hired. In other words, less than 6% of the total number of teacher applicants were qualified and these must be paid premium wages! How many of the "new" teachers are new and

not actually replacements for teachers who have resigned, retired, etc.?

Does this sound like a teacher shortage as the Board would like us to believe? Seems like our School Board is creating this shortage by being too critical in their requirements.

For 13 years, the Torrance School Board, with the backing of the PTA, Industry and a small turn out of voters, have been able to saddle the majority of taxpayers with these taxes to build an Empire for the Board of Education. Who ever heard of Industry endorsing a tax on themselves? Industry endorsed this one. It might prove interesting to find out the ratio of tax percentage of Industry versus Homeowner. PTA meetings are used by the Board of Education to spread their views and literature. Has any taxpayer ever been organized on this or any other tax matter. How does a taxpayer get a captive audience together?

I think the results of the election clearly indicate that the taxpayer, even those who have consistently voted yes in the last 13 years, are fed up with all the double talk we've been getting. One City Official had gumption enough to speak out against it, and what's more, managed to get his statement printed, which is quite a feat in itself, I believe. This one statement of one City Official gave the citizens the boost they needed to defeat the Override Tax.

I, for one, give my sincere thanks to Mr. Bert Lynn,

chairman of the Torrance Planning Commission for speaking his piece on the tax issue. If the statement of one man can have this effect, imagine what would happen if we, the taxpayers, really organized!

To the Torrance Board of Education and our City Fathers, I say, take heed of what has happened, for if our taxes continue to rise, then surely lightning will strike again.

Stop claiming valuable commercial land on which to build schools. Let Industry come in and build and provide jobs. Stop rezoning from commercial to residential, and the influx of people will stop; the population will level off; school registration will drop, while the additional industry will help to reduce the overall tax load on the tax-paying homeowner.

Stop building show places instead of schools! For my part it's what comes out of the school that counts, not

now many acres or trees, or grass, or whatever else the Board of Education wants to put into them.

And, if anyone is interested I'm not a "Johnny-Come-Lately" to Torrance. I've lived here going on 13 years and have three children in Torrance Schools. I am like so many others; sick and tired of the continuing spiral of taxes. And, I'm taking this way to let those who always have their hand out know, that as far as I'm concerned, until they practice economy, they've seen the last of what little money I have left. I am making 60c an hour less this year than last year, and so are many others. So, again I say, take heed—we can't take any more.

To the editor, I express my thanks for allowing me to use this newspaper for I express not only my own views, but I'm sure those of many others.

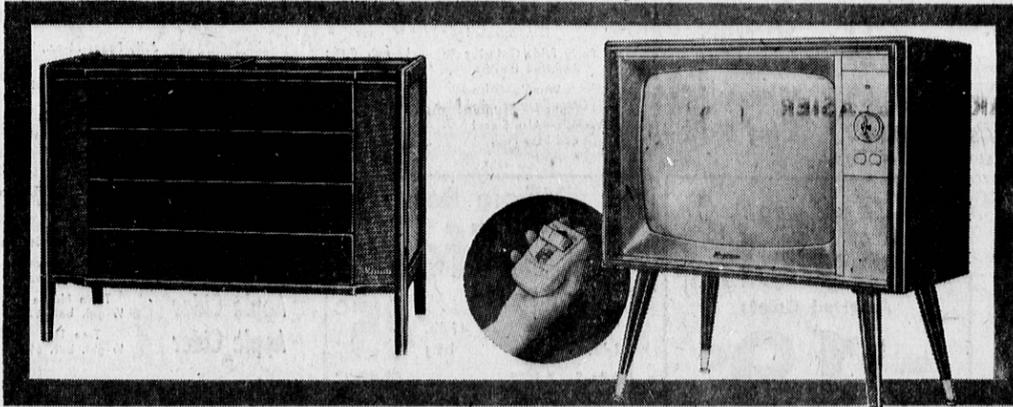
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FEATURED MUSICIANS . . . Members of the flute section of the Torrance-South Bay Symphony Orchestra which opened its fall season Tuesday are, from left, Charlotte Carter, Bette Lewis, and Albert Blau. The orchestra, under the direction of Miss Elysee Ahle, opened to an enthusiastic audience Tuesday featuring Louise DeTullio

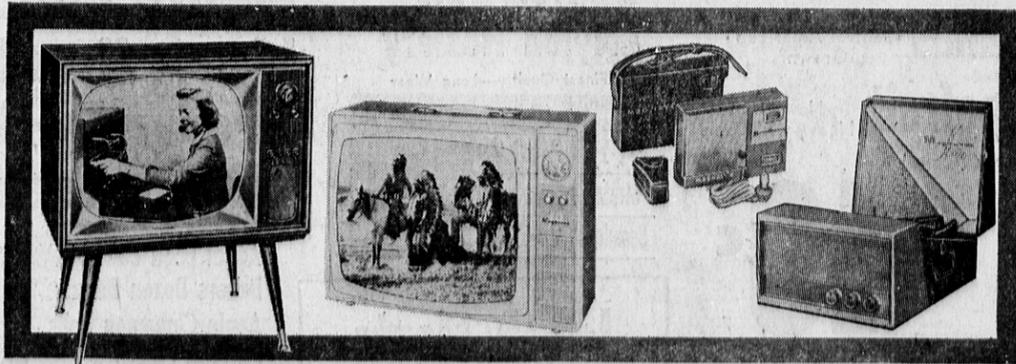
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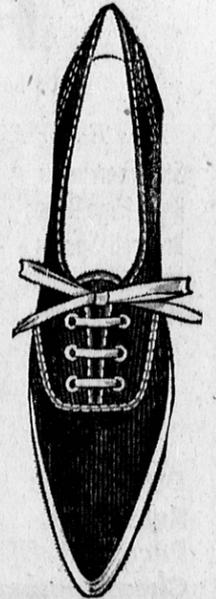
NO RAIN TODAY . . . Mrs. Lois Matlock's sixth graders at Walteria Elementary School are becoming amateur weathermen these days, with equipment they made themselves. Each day, they record weather conditions on a chart in their room, but to date, they haven't been able to record any rain. Looking hopefully upward are Steve Luden, Candace Higgenbotham, Jacque Campbell, and Terri Leonard.

Sixth Graders Keep Eyes On Sky for Signs of Rain

Students in Mrs. Lois Matlock's sixth grade class at Walteria Elementary School, Torrance, are praying for rain. Aside from the refreshing qualities of the heavenly dew, the students would like rain to help them complete their weather chart. Since their current science project is weather, the youngsters have constructed a number of instruments to help them measure the daily weather conditions. To date, they have been able to use all of the instruments except the rainfall gauge. Each day, they record the readings of their instruments to determine the temperature, humidity, wind direction and speed, and other factors. They observe the sky and cloud, and make predictions from all of these. Students are learning how weather affects them and how to make the computations necessary to predict weather. They look forward to the 1 p.m. computations of weather each day. Equipment used to make the weather gauges included old beakers, a coat hanger, old tin cans, paper cups, a few scraps of lumber, paper milk cartons, and other odds and ends.

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